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EVENTS OF THE DAY

IN CHARGE OF
GARNET ISABEL PELTON

MORE GERMAN INTRIGUE.—In this war the German Government alone of all the great belligerents is notorious for low intrigue constantly and everywhere. Recently Secretary Lansing exposed one of these dishonorable plots. He published, without comment, three messages written several months ago by Count Luxburg, the German Minister in Argentina, to his government. These notes suggested that Argentine ships attacked by German submarines, be sunk "without leaving a trace," meaning that the crews be murdered. One note referred to the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs as "a notorious ass." These notes were forwarded to Berlin by the avowedly neutral Swedish Government at Stockholm. Unreproved by his government, Count Luxburg continued as its representative at Buenos Aires, treated as Argentina's trusted guest. On the publication of his notes by our Government, Argentina indignantly gave him his passports; both Houses of the Legislature voted almost unanimously for breaking off relations with Germany—although this step has not yet been taken—and mobs burned German property. Today Count Luxburg is in hiding. The Swedish Minister disclaimed any knowledge of sending the messages, and the Swedish Government disclaimed responsibility on the ground that their contents, being in cipher, were unknown! Germany apologized, but her conscience is more exercised over our "stealing" so sacred a thing as a diplomatic document than over the incident itself. Since this occurrence, Peru and Uruguay have joined the number of South American countries that have broken off relations with Germany, bringing one half the population of that continent officially in line with the Allies.

WAR SESSION OF CONGRESS.—The extraordinary session of Congress, called six months ago to declare war on Germany and to make necessary preparations, closed October 6. It has passed more important legislation than any other session in history. It at once declared war; thereupon, our four great needs became money, men, food, and ships.

MONEY.—Seven billion dollars were quickly and unanimously voted for immediate military needs and for loans to our Allies. All money for government expenses must be raised either by taxes, or by loans called bonds. Congress voted both for war tax bills and for two "Liberty Loan" bills. The new war tax bills try to distribute the

burden justly. They "conscript wealth" by a graded income tax, from 1 per cent on small incomes to 50 per cent on large ones, and by a heavy tax on the profits of war industries. They tax luxuries, such as cigars, theatre-going, Pullman berths. They levy certain general taxes, the one on postage, especially second class mail, being pretty generally objected to.

MEN.—A large expeditionary force was sent to France. The Army, Navy, and National Guard were brought up to war strength. The Selective Draft Bill was passed, conscripting about ten million of our young American citizens. Since then the Alien Draft Bill has arranged for the conscription of the million or more young resident aliens, who would have been conscripted in their own countries, who enjoy protection and prosperity under our laws, and who, while our own men are in service, would reap all their sacrificed opportunities in education and business. Aliens of Germany and her allies will be drafted for non-combatant service.

FOOD.—The Food Control Bill empowered the President to appoint a food administrator; to fix prices on foods and fuel; and to prohibit, if necessary, the importation and manufacture of beers and wines. The bill itself drastically prohibits the importation and manufacture of distilled liquors, to save grain. Another bill, the Trading-with-the-Enemy-Act, empowered the President to embargo, or adjust certain exports, that our own country may have sufficient food first, and then our Allies, and that supplies to neutral countries shall not reach Germany directly or indirectly.

SHIPS.—Congress has made immense appropriations to speed up the building of ships, for we must take sufficient food, munitions, and soldiers to our Allies in spite of German submarines. Every ship in the country large enough to risk on ocean travel is now under government orders. Airships, too, are being rapidly made in great numbers. Congress, which a few years ago would not grant \$15,000 for them, has now granted \$640,000,000.

SOLDIERS' INSURANCE.—The War Insurance Bill will replace the present unjust system of pensions. By this bill a private soldier will be compelled to return to the Government \$16.50 a month, one half of his pay. In return for this, if he is a married man, the Government will give his family an allowance of \$54 a month, on the basis of a wife and three children. If he is a single man, it will return to him at the end of his service, all it has taken from his pay plus 4 per cent. Any soldier may, if he wishes, give the Government \$7 a month more from his pay, receiving in return an insurance of \$10,000. In event of his death this amount will be paid to his heirs at the rate of \$500 a year for twenty years, in addition to a government indemnity of about \$60 a month.